THE OXYGEN SOCIETY

$1000

A constituent member of the International Society for Free Radical Research

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June 25, 1995

Dr. Donald Ford
The Council for Tobacco Research
900 Third Ave.
New York, NY 10022

Workshop on nitric oxide before Remain Mtg - NOV. 17-20, 1995 Rec'd 7/19/95

Dear Dr. Ford,

I would like to explore if we could recruit a contribution from The Council for Tobacco Research for helping to underwrite the annual meeting and educational activities of The Oxygen Society/Society for Free Radical Research. This year, our convocation of approximately 1,000 scientists, physicians and interested members of the lay public will assemble immediately after the American Heart Association meeting in Southern California for our annual symposium, to be held at the Huntington Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Pasadena, California. This society, for which I serve as president through 1996, was organized several years ago to enhance interactions between investigators interested in the biology and pathology of reactive species, ie. oxygen, oxygen radicals, redox-active metals and the recently described free radical species, nitric oxide. Our journal, Free Radical Biology and Medicine, has a citation impact factor which we are proud of, surpassing respected publications in biochemistry and molecular biology including Biochemical Journal, FEBS Letters, Biochimica Biophysica Acta, Archives of Biochemistry and Biophysics and Biochemical Pharmacology.

The topics to be addressed at the 1995 annual meeting of The Oxygen Society will span a broad range of research endeavors, due to the diverse roles which reactive species play in biology and the pathogenesis of disease. We have emphasized bridging the gap between mechanistic studies and clinical applications of new knowledge. This is in part due to many members of the program committee having long-standing associations with clinical departments and the private sector. This emphasis also underscores the ever-increasing significance being given to the role of free radical reactions in the pathogenesis of important disease processes and maintenance of physiologic homeostasis. With these exciting new insights and the rapid evolution of more efficient and often targeted pharmacologic interventions aimed at pathologic manifestations of oxidative stress (anti-inflammatory drugs, xanthine oxidase inhibitors, antioxidant enzyme mimetics, more potent low molecular weight free radical scavengers, nitric oxide donors, etc.), we stand on the

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brink of revolutionizing the treatment of disease processes which have significant morbidity, mortality and economic impact.

My proposal to you and The Council for Tobacco Research would be to aid in the underwriting and sponsorship of a particular segment of our program, for which recognition will be amply provided in both program material and introductions. The four-day meeting will be preceded by an all day didactic and practical workshop on nitric oxide on November 16. On this same date, we will be presenting a half-day educational symposium (directed towards the lay public) on the role of free radicals and antioxidants in cardiovascular diseases, cancer and aging. The scientific communications portion of the meeting will be from November 17-20, consisting of 20 plenary presentations from invited speakers, 24 oral presentations selected from submitted abstracts and the grouping of most of the remaining abstract submissions into non-opposed poster symposia which address different aspects of free radical biology. We have also organized a daily Sunrise Free Radical School to educate new participants in the field as well as noontime meet-the-scientist sessions, which will provide free ranging discussions between senior academic investigators, biotechnology entrepreneurs, pharmaceutical industry representatives and young investigators on topics such as career paths and research funding strategies

With regard to matching some of the missions of The Council for Tobacco Researchto areas being covered by our program, I might suggest the following aspects of the meeting for which we would like to locate sponsorship:

- Mechanisms of Oxidant Tissue Injury
- Oxidant-Mediated Signal Transduction
- Redox-mediated Gene Transcriptional Regulation
- Nitric Oxide, Peroxynitrite in Health and Disease
- The public forum "Free Radicals and Antioxidants in Cardiovascular Diseases, Cancer and Aging"
- Young Investigator Research Awards

It would be of great assistance and recognized with significant emphasis if The Council for Tobacco Research were able to contribute $10,000 towards the costs of these symposia and our young investigator awards program, which is directed towards graduate and postdoctoral students. For this part of the allocation of your contribution, I propose that we provide 1 or 2 Young Investigator Research Awards for meritorious abstracts submitted by students or fellows. These awards are designed help offset meeting/travel costs and provide positive reinforcement at a critical stage of career development. You have my assurance that these areas would be the only society activities for which your contribution would be utilized.

There is also a sense of urgency in this request! I submitted an application to the NIH for supporting costs of our annual meeting which was approved by the

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study section with no budget reductions and given an outstanding priority score (131), both rare events for meeting support (R13) applications these days. To my dismay, the NIH directors in charge of our application recently said that they do not have available resources to fund applications such as ours due to federal budgetary reductions. As a co-founder of a young biotechnology enterprise, Therox, I am aware that economic compression is hitting all facets of our society including the private sector. In spite of this, it is my sincere wish that you would see fit to support the missions of our scientific and medical society. As you realize, transportation, lodging and associated costs are significant for conducting a cutting edge and multifaceted forum such as Oxygen '95, since have invited internationally renowned investigators to provide morning plenary lectures and chair associated afternoon symposia in their areas of research.

It would be of enormous mutual benefit if we could enlist both the participation and sponsorship of The Council for Tobacco Research . Organizations such as The Oxygen Society/Society for Free Radical Research play an important role in coalescing focus on important scientific/clinical/biotechnology issues, serve to bridge basic investigation with applications development and both inspire and train the young scientists who will make the discoveries and advance technology into the year 2000 and beyond. From this, we all profit.

I hope a convincing case has been presented for the appeal I am making on behalf of our society and my colleagues, and that you have the resources to provide a contribution. If I can provide any further assistance or information in the process of recruiting the participation of The Council for Tobacco Research in the 1995 meeting and missions of The Oxygen Society/Society for Free Radical Research, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Bruce Freeman

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